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Shamus Patton found guilty of felony forgery

New sentence will be served in addition to current sentence from 2010 shooting during Indiana Black Expo

(Indianapolis, Ind.) -- Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that a jury has found Shamus Patton guilty of six counts of Forgery (C Felonies) for falsifying the signatures of business managers on work release documents. The jury returned the verdict on Thursday evening after a one-day trial.

According to the probable cause affidavit, Patton was serving an executed sentence through the Indiana Department of Correction at a work release facility where inmates are allowed passes to leave the facility to search for employment. During June 2013, Patton signed out of the facility to perform job searches. Patton submitted Daily Employer Contact Sheets to the facility for each pass with forged supervisor signatures from multiple businesses.

"We fully support re-entry programs and encourage offenders to take advantage of opportunities to regain employment while transitioning from incarceration. However there is no chance of success if the offender is not genuinely participating." Prosecutor Terry Curry stated. "We will not tolerate anyone gaming the system as Mr. Patton attempted to do, and we will continue to hold accountable those who abuse these opportunities while they are serving their sentence."

Patton was convicted in 2011 when he pleaded guilty to thirteen charges for his role in a downtown shooting during the 2010 Indiana Black Expo. In August 2011, he was sentenced to 16 years, eight to be served in the Indiana Department of Correction, two to be served in Community Corrections and six suspended.

A sentencing in the case is scheduled for May 22, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Court 5. Patton is continuing to serve the executed sentence from his 2011 conviction and may be ordered to serve the six year suspended sentence from that case. The sentence from the new conviction and any potential suspended sentence ordered to be served from the 2011 conviction must be served consecutively.

A second Forgery case is pending against Patton related to additional allegations of falsified signatures on work release documents believe to have occurred in May and June 2013. That case is set for a pre-trial conference on May 22, 2014.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.